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| 09/936,492      | 09/11/2001  | David John Hollick   | B&H011US5487        | 7155             |

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EXAMINER

LEON, EDWIN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2833

DATE MAILED: 05/01/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/936,492

Applicant(s)

HOLLICK, DAVID JOHN

Examiner

Edwin A. León

Art Unit

2833

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 6.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 6-7, 13-14, 17, 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Auclair (U.S. Patent No. 5,494,462). With regard to Claims 1, 13-14, and 21-22, Auclair discloses an electrical connector (10) comprising a connector body (20) including a tubular socket (22) configured to receive an electrical conductor (14), clamping means (40) arranged to secure the electrical conductor (14) within the socket (22), and a socket insert fitting (12) within the tubular socket (22) so as to reduce the effective size of the socket (22), wherein the socket insert is tubular (12). See Figs. 1-7.

With regard to Claim 6, Auclair discloses the socket (22) being a bore of substantially circular cross-section. See Figs. 1-7.

With regard to Claims 7, and 20, Auclair discloses the clamping means (40) comprising at least one clamping bolt (44) held in respective threaded bores in the connector body (20) such that the at least one clamping bolt (44) extends into the socket (22) so as to clamp, via the socket insert (12), a connector (14) inserted in the socket (22) against an opposing surface of the socket (22). See Figs. 1-7.

With regard to Claim 17, Auclair discloses the electrical conductor (14) being received within the tubular socket insert (12) to position the socket insert (12) between the clamping member (40) and the electrical connector (14) and between an opposing surface of the socket (22) relative to the clamping member (40) and the electrical conductor (14). See Figs. 1-7.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

3. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

4. Claims 2, 10 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auclair (U.S. Patent No. 5,494,462). Auclair discloses the claimed invention except the socket insert being aluminum.

It would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to make the socket insert of aluminum, since it has been held to be within the general ordinary skill of a worker in the art to select a known material on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of obvious design choice. *In re Leshin*, 125 USPQ 416.

5. Claims 3-4, 9, 11, 15-16 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auclair (U.S. Patent No. 5,494,462) in view of Pranch (U.S. Patent

No. 4,687,273). Auclair discloses the claimed invention except the socket insert having at least one of a castellated or corrugated profile.

Pranch discloses a connector having socket insert (2) having at least one of a castellated or corrugated profile (2). See Fig. 1.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector of Auclair by including a socket insert having at least one of a castellated or corrugated profile as taught in Pranch to improve the mechanical strength of the retaining engagement between the insert and the conductors.

6. Claims 5, 12, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auclair (U.S. Patent No. 5,494,462) in view of Knill (U.K. Patent No. 2,219,442). Auclair discloses the claimed invention except an internal surface of the tubular socket insert having at least one of serrations or tooth-like formations.

Knill discloses a connector having an internal surface of a tubular socket insert (7) having at least one of serrations (15) or tooth-like formations (15). See Figs 1 and 5.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector of Auclair by including an internal surface of the tubular socket insert having at least one of serrations or tooth-like formations as taught in Knill to make the connector able to retain conductors in an inside surface more efficiently.

7. Claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Auclair (U.S. Patent No. 5,494,462) in view of Polidori (U.S. Patent No. 5,320,565). Auclair discloses the claimed invention except at least one clamping bolt including a shearable

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head that shears off when a torque applied to the shearable head exceeds a predetermined value.

Polidori discloses a connector (10) having at least one clamping bolt (46) including a shearable head (45) that shears off when a torque applied to the shearable head (45) exceeds a predetermined value. See Fig. 4 and Column 38-47.

Thus, it would have been obvious to one with ordinary skill in the art to modify the connector of Auclair by including at least one clamping bolt including a shearable head that shears off when a torque applied to the shearable head exceeds a predetermined value as taught in Pranch to prevent over torquing.

### ***Conclusion***

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Schreck et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,953,289), Robinson (U.S. Patent No. 6,165,004), Green (U.S. Patent No. 6,261,119) Pinyan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,167,526), Yonkers et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,620,755), White et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,547,033), Bianchi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 4,120,554), De France (U.S. Patent No. 4,050,761), Kraft (U.S. Patent No. 3,848,956), Blackburn (U.S. Patent No. 796,797), Langella (U.S. Patent No. 3,674,916), Blonder (U.S. Patent No. 3,016,510), Johnson (U.S. Patent No. 2,440,748), O'Neil (U.S. Patent No. 2,396,119), Perera (U.S. Patent No. 5,816,844), Polidori (U.S. Patent No. 5,616,036), Sauer (FR Patent No. 2,661,045),

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and Caillot (FR Patent No. 2,660,490) disclose connectors having tubular sockets and inserts.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Edwin A. León whose telephone number is (703) 308-6253. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday - Friday 9:00-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paula A. Bradley can be reached on (703) 308-2319. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

*P. Bradley*  
P. AUSTIN BRADLEY  
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April 16, 2002